

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated August 23, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 3-8, and 10-14 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-8, and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants Related Art ("ARA") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,682,212 to Maurer ("Maurer").

The rejection of claims 1 and 3-8 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1 and 3-5 are allowable over the cited references in that these claims recite a combination of elements including, for example, "a cholesteric liquid crystal color filter on the absorption layer, the cholesteric liquid crystal color filter having a plurality of protrusions, a shape, a size and a distribution of the protrusions being controlled to make a distribution of reflected light be uniform within a viewing angle range of about 30 degrees upward and downward from a front direction." Claims 6-8 are allowable over the cited references in that these claims recite a combination of elements including, for example, "forming a cholesteric liquid crystal color filter over the absorption layer, the cholesteric liquid crystal color filter having a plurality of protrusions, a shape, a size and a distribution of the protrusions being controlled to make a distribution of reflected light be uniform within a viewing angle range of about 30 degrees upward and downward from a front direction." The ARA nor Maurer teaches, either singly or in combination, at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-8 are allowable over the various cited references.

In the Office Action, the Examiner relies solely on Maurer as teaching this feature of the claimed invention. In the Office Action the Examiner stated the cholesteric color filter of Maurer functions "as a combination color filter, polarizer and lens (Column 2, Lines 30-40) and for uniform luminance." Because Maurer does not state that its purpose is to produce uniform luminance, the Applicants' last response requested that the Examiner support this assertion. In

response the Examiner basically states because the structure of Maurer is the same as the present invention it must have this feature. Such an argument is circular. In reality, Maurer is directed to various optical elements that may be fabricated using cholesteric liquid crystal elements. Specifically, optical element for use in image projectors. As identified by the Examiner these cholesteric color filter elements may be used as a combination color filter, polarizer and lens, thus providing various benefits in the optical elements of an image projector. Further, Figs. 2 and 2a cited by the Examiner as teaching this feature are described as: "A CLC layer (3) of constant thickness is located between the transparent substrate surface containing a field of 5x8 convex lenses (17) and the transparent substrate surface containing 5x8 concave lenses (18)." This structure is directed to lenses, which is consistent with the fact that Maurer is directed to optical elements for use in an image display system. The various examples of devices in Maurer are directed to lenses, mirrors, etc. So Maurer does not teach this feature of the claimed invention.

Further, Maurer is non-analogous art. It is directed to optical elements for use in an image projector. There is no mention in Maurer of a liquid crystal display devices. One of skill in the art looking to modify the ARA would not look to Maurer to overcome the limitation of the ARA. It is directed generally to optical elements that incorporate cholesteric liquid crystals. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-5 are allowable over the ARA and Maurer.

The rejection of claims 10-14 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 10-14 are allowable over the cited references in that these claims recite a combination of elements including, for example, "patterning the cholesteric liquid crystal layer using the photoresist as a mask to form a plurality of protrusions on the cholesteric liquid crystal layer." The ARA nor Maurer teaches, either singly or in combination, at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 10-14 are allowable over the various cited references.

Claims 10-14 are allowable over Maurer for the reasons discussed above. In addition, neither Maurer or the ARA disclose the various steps for forming the plurality of protrusions on the cholesteric liquid crystal layer. The Office Actions summarily states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to manufacture the device. No such steps are disclosed.

Further, the structure mentioned is not obvious for the reasons stated above. Accordingly, claims 10-14 are allowable over the ARA and Maurer.

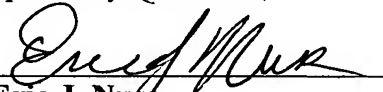
Applicants believe the foregoing remarks place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: November 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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